



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP El Salvador Country Brief September 2024



Youngsters from the Gastro-Lab certification programme in the Department of La Libertad - ©WFP Photo

Operational Context

El Salvador has a population of 6.3 million. In 2024, GDP is forecast to grow by 3 percent. The basic food basket price decreased by 2 percent from July to August, inflation decreased to 1.7 percent for August 2024. The fiscal deficit reached 1.8 percent of GDP, and the debt exceeded 90 percent. Food production represents only 5 percent of the GDP, relying heavily on food imports and remittances (24.5 percent of the GDP). Further, 26 percent of families live in multidimensional poverty with multiple disadvantages (e.g., poor health or malnutrition, poor quality of work, or little schooling).

Recurrent and adverse weather conditions often affect crops, limiting efforts to reduce food insecurity (rank 28th, Global Climate Risk Index 2021). In 2024, the weather in El Salvador has been notably unusual due to the lack of a clear and defined influence of the El Niño-Southern Oscillation phenomenon. This situation led to periods of extreme heat and irregular rainfall that did not follow traditional patterns. As a result, we have experienced excess and deficit rainfall in different areas of the country, which affected the production of basic grains, putting household food stocks at risk of depletion, negatively affecting smallholder farmers' income and dietary diversity.

WFP has been present in El Salvador since 1971.



Population: **6.3 million**

2023 Human Development Index: **127 out of 189**

Income Level: **Lower middle**

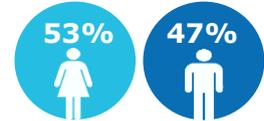
Chronic malnutrition: **14% of children between 6-59 months**

In Numbers

USD 97,680 delivered as cash-based transfers*

USD 17.1 m six months (October 2024 - March 2025) net funding requirements, representing 89 percent of the total

1,041 people assisted*
in SEPTEMBER 2024



*Preliminary numbers

Operational Updates

- WFP assisted 1,401 food-insecure people (53 percent women) affected by climate-related disasters and the global economic crisis in the departments of San Miguel, Sonsonate, La Libertad and Cuscatlán. USD 120 monthly were transferred per household to cover their immediate food needs.
- On 10 September, a new group of 102 young people started the Gastro-Lab, a gastronomic certification programme, in the three centres in the departments of La Libertad, Santa Ana and La Unión. These young people started in a virtual mode with the topic of Gastronomy and Tourism, taught by the technical team of Peru's Tourism Training Centre (CENFOTUR), thanks to a south-south initiative between the two countries.
- Also, on 18 September, WFP developed an Opportunity Fair with tourism companies and the previous group of Gastro-Lab students in the Department of La Union to get internship opportunities for young people. All 45 young people in this group were placed and started their internships.

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Country Strategic Plan (2022-2027)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
134.1 m	44.4 m	17.1 m

Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food

Strategic Outcome 1 (SO1): SO1: People are better able to meet their urgent food and nutrition needs.
Focus area: Crisis Response

Activities:

1. Provide immediate nutrition-sensitive food assistance to crisis-affected populations to meet their essential needs and facilitate relief and early recovery.
2. Strengthen emergency preparedness and response capacity at the community and institutional levels.

Strategic Result 2: Food systems are sustainable

Strategic Outcome 2 (SO2): People have improved & sustainable livelihoods.
Focus area: Resilience Building

Activities:

3. Empower food-insecure communities to adopt improved and inclusive climate risk management and adaptation practices, as well as services to enhance production and resilience against shocks and stressors.
4. Strengthen the production, management, and marketing capacities of urban and rural populations.
9. Strengthen the national capacity to manage social protection programmes, to attend the most vulnerable population including school children through provision of food assistance.

Strategic Result 3: Developing countries have strengthened capacities to implement the SDGs.

Strategic Outcome 3 (SO3): National programmes & systems are strengthened.
Focus area: Root Causes

Activities:

5. Provide technical assistance to strengthen institutional capacity and social protection systems, enhancing inclusivity to meet the differentiated food and nutrition security needs of people and communities in conditions of vulnerability.

Strategic Result 4: Sharing of knowledge, expertise and technology, strengthen global partnership support to country efforts to achieve the SDGs.

Strategic Outcome 4 (SO4): Humanitarian & development actors are more efficient & effective.
Focus area: Resilience Building

Activities:

6. Provide cash-based transfer platform services to government partners, United Nations agencies and national and international non-governmental organizations to meet the essential needs of targeted populations.
7. Provide food procurement services to government partners, United Nations agencies and national and international non-governmental organizations to meet the essential needs of targeted populations.
8. Provide logistics and non-food item procurement services to government partners, United Nations agencies and national and international non-governmental organizations for the delivery of social protection.

Monitoring

- WFP According to the WFP price monitoring report, the prices of basic grains of major consumption, such as beans and maize, reduced in September. Vegetables also showed a price drop, which impacts the price of the urban basic food basket but not the rural one because the basket does not include these products. WFP analysis identified the price difference between the vegetables imported from Guatemala (producer) and El Salvador (importer), between 20 percent and 40 percent.

UN Interagency Collaboration

- WFP contributed to data analysis and estimation of the Persons in Need (PIN) of the Food Security Cluster coordinated by the Humanitarian Country Team at the municipality level. This data is a key part of the Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO) and Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP).

Donors

Canada, German Federal Foreign Office, United States of America (the), Saudi Arabia, Sweden, El Salvador and private donors.